

§ 143A-66.1. Forestry Council – creation; powers and duties.

There is hereby created the Forestry Council of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Forestry Council shall have the following functions and duties:

- (1) To advise the Commissioner of Agriculture with respect to all matters concerning the protection, management, and preservation of State-owned, privately owned, and municipally owned forests in the State, including but not limited to:
 - a. Profitable use of the State's forests consistent with the principles of sustained productivity.
 - b. Best management practices, including those for protection of soil, water, wildlife, and wildlife habitat, to be used in managing the State's forests and their resources.
 - c. Restoration of forest ecosystems and protection of rare and endangered species occurring in the State's private forests consistent with principles of private ownership of land.
- (2) To maintain oversight of a continuous monitoring and planning process, to provide a long-range, comprehensive plan for the use, management, and sustainability of North Carolina's forest resources, and to report regularly on progress made toward meeting the objectives of the plan.
- (3) To provide a forum for the identification, discussion, and development of recommendations for the resolution of conflicts in the management of North Carolina's forests.
- (4) To undertake any other studies, make any reports, and advise the Commissioner of Agriculture on any matter as the Commissioner may direct. (1973, c. 1262, s. 52; 1977, c. 771, s. 4; 1989, c. 727, s. 218(139); 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 653, s. 1; 1997-443, s. 11A.119(a); 2011-145, s. 13.25(f), (g).)